

on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. 344

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 344 and it be referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GEORGE DANIEL CROWE

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 121, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 121) honoring the 100th anniversary of the birth of George Daniel Crowe.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 121) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 17, 2021, (Legislative Day of March 16, 2021) under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS' AND CAREGIVERS' COVID-19 IMMUNIZATIONS NOW EXPANDED ACT OF 2021

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1276, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1276) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

There being no objection the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous consent that the Tester-Moran substitute amendment be considered and agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1400), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Veterans and Every Spouse Act" or the "SAVE LIVES Act".

#### SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH COVID-19 VACCINE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS NOT ENROLLED IN PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may furnish a vaccine for COVID-19 to a covered individual during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(b) PRIORITIZATION.—In furnishing vaccines for COVID-19 under the laws administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall—

(1) prioritize the vaccination of veterans who are enrolled in the patient enrollment system, veterans who receive hospital care and medical services pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of section 1705 of title 38, United States Code, and accompanying caregivers of such veterans before the vaccination of covered individuals not otherwise described in this paragraph; and

(2) only furnish vaccines for COVID-19 to covered individuals under this section to the extent that such vaccines are available.

(c) TIMING OF VACCINES PROVIDED TO SPOUSES OF VETERANS.—The Secretary may determine the timing for offering a vaccine for COVID-19 to the spouse of a veteran from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(d) VACCINE ALLOCATION.—It is the sense of Congress that, to the extent practicable based on the current national supply chain, the Secretary of Health and Human Services should adjust the allocation for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the vaccine for COVID-19 based on the additional eligibility of covered individuals under this section.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ACCOMPANYING CAREGIVER.—The term "accompanying caregiver" means a caregiver described in subparagraph (D), (E), or (F) of paragraph (2) who is accompanying a veteran who is receiving a vaccine for COVID-19 furnished by the Department.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term "covered individual" means any of the following individuals:

(A) A veteran who is not eligible to enroll in the patient enrollment system.

(B) A veteran who is eligible for care under section 1724 of title 38, United States Code.

(C) A beneficiary under section 1781 of such title.

(D) A family caregiver of a veteran participating in the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under section 1720G(a) of such title.

(E) A caregiver of a veteran participating in the program of general caregiver support services under section 1720G(b) of such title.

(F) A caregiver of a veteran participating in the Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(G) A spouse of a veteran.

(3) COVERED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The term "covered public health emergency" means an emergency with respect to COVID-19 declared by a Federal, State, or local authority.

(4) COVID-19.—The term "COVID-19" means the coronavirus disease 2019.

(5) PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM.—The term "patient enrollment system" means

the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

(6) VETERAN.—The term "veteran" has the meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

Mr. PADILLA. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1276), as amended, was passed.

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Thursday, March 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the nomination of Xavier Becerra to be Secretary for Health and Human Services; further, that the postcloture debate time on the Becerra nomination expire at 12 noon; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; finally, that upon disposition of the Becerra nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Martin Walsh to be Secretary of Labor and that the cloture motion with respect to the Walsh nomination ripen at 1:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PADILLA. Finally, for the information of Senators, we expect two roll-call votes during Thursday's session of the Senate in relation to the Becerra and Walsh nominations.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:22 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 10 a.m.